

Message Text

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ORIGIN EB-11

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ISO-00 CAB-09 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00

DOT-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 FAA-00 L-03 SS-20 NSC-07

PA-04 PRS-01 USIA-15 /092 R

DRAFTED BY EB/AN:MHSTYLES:TH

APPROVED BY EB/AN:MHSTYLES

CAB - MR. MURPHY

AR/W - MR. WALKER

EB/OA - MR. MEADOWS

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R 122257Z MAR 74

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY ACCRA

INFO AMCONSUL CASABLANCA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRN, GH

SUBJ: CIVAIR NEGOTIATIONS

REF: ACCRA 1144, STATE 34936

1. DEPARTMENT BELIEVES WAY HANDLE SITUATION IS TO SUGGEST TO GOG THAT NEXT ROUND OF TALKS BE POSTPONED FOR NUMBER OF REASONS BUT SAY THAT, IF GOG NEVERTHELESS INSISTS TALKS SHOULD BE HELD NOW, US IS PREPARED DO SO. WE SUGGEST FOLLOWING SPECIFIC SCENARIO, AT EMBASSY'S DESCRETION.

2. APPROACH MIGHT BEST BE MADE INFORMALLY TO DWEMOH AND BE CAST AS AN EFFORT DISCUSS WITH HIM BEST WAY TO HANDLE DIFFICULT SITUATION. EMBOFF COULD EXPLAIN THAT RESPECTIVE POSITIONS TAKEN AT LAST MEETING SUGGEST THAT NEAR TERM SOLUTION DIFFICULT AT BEST. FINANCIAL DIFFICULTIES OF US AIRLINES, AS WELL AS COST CONSEQUENCES

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TO ALL AIRLINES OF FUEL SHORTAGES, HAVE PARTICULARLY

FOCUSED US ATTENTION ON ESSENTIAL NEED TO BASE OUR AVIATION POLICIES ON HARD-HEADED ECONOMIC REALITIES. WE CANNOT REALLY IMAGINE THAT GHANA AIRWAYS COULD FIND ECONOMIC BASIS FOR OPERATIONS TO US IN FORESEEABLE FUTURE. US DOES, HOWEVER, RECOGNIZE GHANA'S INSISTENCE ON HAVING AN AGREEMENT TO PROVIDE AN INTERGOVERNMENTAL FRAMEWORK FOR AIR TRANSPORT RELATIONS AND IT MADE SPECIFIC

PROPOSALS AT THE LAST MEETING IN THIS DIRECTION, E.G. AN AGREEMENT LEAVING ROUTE RIGHTS IN ANNEX FOR EACH SIDE TO BE DECIDED LATER WITH A SEPARATE EXCHANGE OF NOTES COVERING INTERIM ARRANGEMENTS. WE MAY HAVE SOME ADDITIONAL IDEAS OR BE ABLE TO DEVELOP OTHERS IN CONCERT WITH GHANA, BUT THESE COULD WORK ONLY IF GHANA'S POSITION CONTAINS SOME FLEXIBILITY.

3. IT IS FOR FOREGOING REASONS THAT US CONCERNED ABOUT OUTCOME ANOTHER ROUND AND WHY IT IS FELT IT MIGHT BE BEST POSTPONE ANOTHER ROUND UNTIL GENERAL UNCERTAINTIES OF INTERNATIONAL AIR TRANSPORT PICTURE ARE CLEARED UP SOMEWHAT AND UNTIL GHANA HAS FURTHER OPPORTUNITY REVIEW ITS OWN ROLE AND ALTERNATIVES IN THIS PICTURE, E.G. SERVICE TO US NOW, BLOCKED SPACE WITH PAN AM, OR CHARTER FLIGHT ACTIVITY TO US. IF GHANA BELIEVES THAT FURTHER MEETING SHOULD NEVERTHELESS TAKE PLACE AT THIS TIME, US NEGOTIATORS ARE PREPARED TO COME TO ACCRA. BECAUSE OF SEVERAL ADMINISTRATIVE PROBLEMS, IT WOULD BE DIFFICULT TO SCHEDULE MEETING BEFORE END OF MARCH, AND INSTEAD SUGGEST TALKS BEGIN ON OR ABOUT APRIL 17.

4. DEPARTMENT WISHES PIN DOWN THIS MATTER ASAP, HOPEFULLY BY MARCH 15. KISSINGER

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Message Attributes

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